

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013353

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-7 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-6 received by this Authority on 05.10.2005 with telefax
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/3-3/3 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>DE-A-101 58 114 (see, in particular, figures 3, 4, 6 and 7 and the corresponding description) discloses a device according to the preamble of claim 1, the sole independent claim.</p> <p>The characterizing features solve the technical problem of simplifying the handling of such a device while nevertheless creating a particularly stable connection.</p> <p>Although figure 12 and the description on pages 20 and 21 of WO-A-01/20216 show a similar device in which the sliding sleeve (90) can be slid into a locking recess (88) in the area of the engaging nose (87) which is introduced into the clamping clip (86), this known sliding sleeve cannot be displaced out of an unlocking recess.</p> <p>This feature makes it possible for the sliding sleeve always to be securely connected to the rest of the device.</p> <p>The sliding sleeve in DE-A-101 58 114 is also</p>			

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	<p>displaceable out of this type of unlocking recess (between protrusions 29 and 30). Nevertheless, it is not possible to combine these two documents in order to arrive at subject matter like that defined in claim 1, without thereby being inventive. If the clamping clip 86 from the WO document were provided with a front-side groove as an "unlocking recess", the coupling elements 91 of the sliding sleeve 90 would press the engaging nose inward to such an extent that the corrugated pipe could no longer be inserted. Therefore, this position would not be an unlocking position, the recess would not be a real unlocking recess, and the combination discussed would not lead to the subject matter of claim 1.</p> <p>Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 involves an inventive step within the meaning of PCT Article 33(3).</p> <p>Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p> <p>The industrial applicability of the claimed subject matter is established in the description within the meaning of PCT Article 33(4).</p>

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Box No. VII **Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Contrary to the requirements of PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii),
the description neither cites document DE-A-101 58
114 nor indicates the prior art disclosed therein.

The description was not brought in line with the
claims (PCT Article 6 and PCT Rule 5.1(a)(iii)).

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: **BOX I**

The preamble of the amended claim 1 consists of the original claims 1, 5 and 6, and the characterizing part is based on page 5, line 31 to page 6, line 3. Claims 2 and 3 are supported by page 5, line 33 to page 6, line 1, and page 6, lines 5 and 6, respectively. Claims 4-6 correspond to the original claims 2-4.

Therefore, the requirements of PCT Article 34(2) (b) have been met.